

# Better Interiors

IDEAS AND DESIGN FOR BETTER LIVING

*simple aesthetics*  
*a clean-lined home*  
by dipen gada & associates

*do it yourself*  
*garden*  
29 steps to  
perfect landscaping  
*techniques*  
3 easy-to-do  
furniture makeovers

*christmas special*

55 sparkling gifts

*festive table settings*  
from style experts at

beau monde  
bangalore &  
good earth  
lucerne  
dhooop



# style & simplicity

Dipen Gada & Associates lift the Parikhs' Baroda home out of the ordinary, while conforming to a rather simple brief.

Text: Sneha Bhaskar | Photographs: Tejas Shah courtesy the architects

**BAHAMA, THE CULTURAL CAPITAL OF** Guyana, is a place where good taste and simple living go hand in hand. Going by the stereotype of this vibrant, high-energy land, I expect the Paribha's home, designed by DHA (Dipen-Gladis & Associates), to be a burst of cheerfulness. So, you can imagine my surprise when my eyes fall on a serene Bahuba set against a tranquil, spherical, metallic plate at the entrance. I step further into the home, the pervasive serenity carrying me through.

Clean lines are visible everywhere — from the door at the main entrance to the furniture, and

even the cleverly fashioned dining screen. I am pleasantly surprised to find that the 'metallic' sphere at the entrance, is actually a NuWood panel finished in antique-gold paint. The floor opens into a wide living space. Colour is smartly used to demarcate the formal and informal seating areas. Neutral tones claim the formal area, while bold magnets furnishings add energy and warmth to the informal family seating area.

The home-owners were friends of the architect and completely-trusted his team, headed by chief architect Vicky Kanalya, with carrying out their simple and clear brief. All they wanted



**■** The bronze Bahuba with antique-gold background increases tranquillity

**■** The wooden tones of the wall coverings together with indirect lighting form an interesting backdrop for the living area. They also complement the dark tones of the polished wood coffee table

**■** Art work and carefully chosen accessories help create the desired ambience for this contemporary home. The staircase, with its wooden mesh and SS railing, further augments





### concept of modernity

#### Concept

The clients wanted a contemporary home that was aesthetically pleasing and functional. The architects kept the basic form simple and added touches of sophistication with fine furnishings in colours that would suit the ambience and purpose of specific rooms.

#### Materials

**Walls:** POP with egg-white latex paint

**Flooring:** White vitrified tiles (1 m x 1 m), parquet flooring

**Windows:** Teak wood and clear glass

**Doors:** Flush doors with laminate and steel studs

**Furniture finishes:** Wood, veneer, laminate, SS, glass and mosaic tiles

**Soft Furnishings:** Hanging paper-pulp lamp from USA; Agavevarium silk screen from Finland; paintings from Kala Michi; Other soft furnishings from Ghazal Furnishings

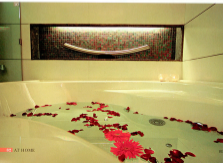


between the ground and first floors. "The volume of the staircase area dramatizes the entire space of the living room — its role as a design element supersedes its primary functional role," says Dixon.

Highly polished ebony veneer on the dining table reflects the pale, neutral-colored walls. The innovative screen that separates the dining and dining areas, is made of beautiful gold printed, kagomekame silk, sandwiched between glass plates and set within a wooden frame. The dining room opens out into the main garden. "This layout gives us the option of extending the living and dining area into the garden, when during a party, guests can spill outdoors," says Mrs. Parikh. Adjoining the dining area is the yoga room, Zen-like in its meditative calm. Featuring dark laminates and granite counters, the kitchen lays emphasis on functionality and ease of maintenance.

The architects have played with light and shadow throughout the house. Indirect lighting has been used to enhance, diffuse or highlight spaces with interesting geometric shadows. The first floor balcony, for instance, is devoid of any distractions, except the slanting shadows on the wall.

The master bedroom on the first floor encapsulates the look of the entire house with its soft minimalism and focus on simple forms. The deep and rich parquet flooring, which cost more



11 Tiles, both white and textured, coupled with rich Grey Williaminton marble, add elegance to the master bathroom.

12 Spa-like sensory delights in the peaceful corner of the master bathroom.



1 Light plays an important part in the design and was used to generate different moods within a space

2 Colour is used intelligently to separate the formal living space from the family area

3 The living, family and dining areas all form one large space because of the open planning

4 Simple forms and indirect lighting lend a minimalist feel to the master bedroom

5 The clean-line design of these chairs is emphasised through the use of white upholstery against the dark wood flooring

Given the clarity of the brief, the architects whittled down their concepts to a basic simplicity and, as Dipen says, "We created a home which would be comfortable, low-maintenance and contemporary too."

was a contemporary home, high on aesthetics and functionality. The only restriction was to leave the external facade untouched, as per the housing society rules.

Given the clarity of the brief, the architects whittled down their concepts to a basic simplicity and, as Dipen says, "We created a home which would be comfortable, low-maintenance and contemporary too." The basic form was kept sophisticated and simple. This could be jazzed up with subtle touches in fine furnishings. As is, there is nothing wrote-or-over-the-top here, the house exudes class and understated style.

After talking in the play of colour in the living area, I am drawn to the staircase, leading up to the first floor. The steps are dressed with slip, wooden treads. Polished wood frames with stainless steel bars make the railing functional, stylish and safe. The wall behind the staircase, treated with warm beige tones and horizontal grooves, adds to the overall effect. A suspended paper pulp lamp provides a vertical connectivity





■ Bright coloured, geometric forms create a fun environment in the daughter's bedroom

■ Attention to detail coupled with the play of light, are the show-stoppers here

into the dressing area, is the only exception to the restraint and sobriety of view lines. The wall's back highlights the sloping ceiling, which becomes a design statement by itself.

The daughter's room, in bright parrot green, and cheerful orange, has a bunk bed as its visual focus. The smooth base of the bed and the well-fit cushions stand out against the huge

geometric designs on the wall. The room is spacious and unbelieveably clutter-free, possibly because of all the closet space available. The other rooms, such as the parents' bedroom, guest bedroom and study, all follow a similar design language — a minimal colour palette with accents of colour chosen in with bright furnishings and artefacts.

Solid-hued colours, a rich material palette, clean forms and simple structure all merge seamlessly to make the Parikh residence a place of simple beauty — an aspect that, as they believe, no one can live of. Like the great romantic poet Keats famously said, 'A thing of beauty is a joy forever.' 📌

## fact file

**Client:** The Parikhs  
**Location:** Vihar Road, Bandra  
**Area:** 3,200 sq ft  
**Principal Designer:** Dipen Gada  
**(Dipen Gada & Associates)**  
**Design Team:** Nishu Kalyani and Shrut Patel  
**Duration of project:** Six months  
**Date of completion:** April 2007



